

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

18 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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Page Denied

1. Laos

a. There has been a marked northward shift in [redacted] operations during the past month. The chief benefactors are probably the Pathet Lao/Kong Le forces in the Nam Tha-Muong Sai area, although Chinese road-builders may also be getting some of the supplies. It is too early to say whether this development means another move against Nam Tha [redacted]

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b. [redacted]

[redacted] anti-government forces may be closing the ring on Attapeu in the south; the loss of Attapeu would widen the Communist corridor to South Vietnam.

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c. Sarit, voicing doubts that he will be able to budge Phoumi toward acceptance of a Souvanna-led coalition, now seems to be tending toward Phoumi's idea of a king's government as the only "sensible solution." He insists, however, that he will keep his word to the United States. Phoumi is also claiming that the king has finally agreed to head a new government, in which he would probably serve as a "special adviser."

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2. Argentina

a. The Chamber of Deputies will probably put off action on the presidential succession law until after Easter. Meanwhile, a political compromise is in the works whereby Peronists would be seated in congress if they give up their gubernatorial victories. Ambassador McClintock is inclined to believe that such an arrangement might be acceptable all around.

b. The general public is beginning to feel the pinch of the government's austerity measures, and resentment is being fed by the belief that the program discriminates against the ordinary consumer.

3. Sino-Soviet
relations

We see little, if any, movement toward a rapprochement on fundamentals, pious expressions of unity and a new trade pact (which now seems likely) notwithstanding. Chou En-lai's speech at the National People's Congress and Peiping's general conduct leaves no doubt that the Chinese Communists are sticking to their guns on fundamental ideological matters and issues in which their national interests are at stake.

4. Guatemala

Guatemala City remained more or less calm yesterday as Ydigoras struggled to reorganize his government. A sign of the times, however, was the sudden departure Monday of Senora Ydigoras and nine other members of the president's family.

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NOTES

- A. Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio claims that Soviet efforts to discourage Indonesia from associating with our efforts to settle the West New Guinea problem include a threat to cancel an eight month moratorium on debt payments to the USSR.
- B. French rejection of NATO guidelines on use of nuclear weapons threatens to become a major issue at the Ministerial meetings in Athens. Stikker hopes to avoid a hassle by simply reporting that the other 14 countries accept the principle of consultations, rather than make it a voting matter.

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- D. The embryonic military coup uncovered in the Dominican Republic yesterday is symptomatic of steadily growing political instability. Another straw in the wind is the action of the National Civic Union--the countries largest political party--calling on all members holding important official positions to resign in protest over the government's failure to carry out promised reforms or to remove unsavory Trujilloites still imbedded in the military.
- E. Yugoslavia is considering withdrawal of its ambassador in East Germany in hopes of mending relations with Bonn and thus improving its prospects of obtaining badly needed financial assistance.

- F. Pompidou is expected to present his government's program to the National Assembly about 26 April.
- G. Nkrumah intends to gather into his own hands 50X11 even more strings of governmental control in Ghana. Industries Minister Edusei, last of the "old guardsmen" who assumed high political office when Ghana became independent, is probably due for replacement. Edusei is now in London, where he is presumably discussing with his wife her recent purchase of a golden bed.
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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE